

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 240534

15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240534

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: US, UR (STEPANOV, IGOR PAVLOVICH)

SUBJECT:DEFECTOR MEETS SOVIET CONSULS

REF: STATE 235628 NOTAL

1. STEPANOV, FORMER COOK AT SOVIET EMBASSY SINGAPORE WHO DEFECTED TO US IN 1975, MET AT HIS REQUEST AT DEPARTMENT WITH SOVIET EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICERS KAVALEROV AND POZHAROV ON SEPTEMBER 24. DEPTOFF ALSO ATTENDED MEETING.

2. STEPANOV, WHO RESIDES AT TOLSTOY FOUNDATION FARM AT VALLEY COTTAGE, NEW YORK, GAVE SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICERS LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF HIS PROBLEMS ADJUSTING IN US, DESCRIBED ALLEGED PERSECUTION AND BEATINGS BY OTHER SOVIET REFUGEES
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PAGE 02 STATE 240534

AT TOLSTOY FARM, AND CLAIMED HE HAD DIFFICULTY OBTAINING

MEDICAL CARE. STEPANOV ASKED FOR SOVIET EMBASSY ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING AND CONTACTING ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MIGHT PROVIDE HIM GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE IN US.

3. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICERS SAID THEY COULD NOT HELP STEPANOV AS LONG AS HE WISHED TO REMAIN IN US, AND KAVALEROV MADE LOW-KEY EFFORT TO PERSUADE HIM TO RETURN TO USSR. KAVALEROV CLAIMED STEPANOV WOULD NOT FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES IF HE RETURNED BUT WOULD BE REUNITED WITH FAMILY, GIVEN MEDICAL CARE, AND COULD RESUME WORK AS COOK IN USSR. STEPANOV REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING TO USSR WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK CITY, BUT THEY COULD GIVE QUOTE NO KIND OF GUARANTEE UNQUOTE ABOUT HIS TREATMENT AFTER RETURNING, SO HE DID NOT WISH TO RETURN.

4. AFTER MEETING, SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICERS TOLD DEPT OFF PRIVATELY THAT STEPANOV SEEMED MENTALLY ILL.

5. STEPANOV RETURNED TO TOLSTOY FARM WITH TOLSTOY OFFICIAL WHO HAD ESCORTED STEPANOV TO WASHINGTON AT STEPANOV'S REQUEST. KISSINGER

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